

ETV Radio Features SC State University’s Brass Quintet

by Tameka Kenan-Norman

“This is my baby,” says Dr. Steven J. Reid of SC State University’s brass quintet. That’s why the music professor of six years at the University was so excited to receive an invitation from ETV Radio to participate in the festivities for the grand opening of the company’s new state-of-the-art facilities. “I am immensely proud of these music majors,” says Reid. “These students have shown diligence and dedication in their preparation.”

ETV Radio hosted the grand opening of their new facilities at the ETV Telecommunications Center, 1041 George Rogers Boulevard in Columbia, S.C., on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 4 p.m. to 7 pm. The public was invited to tour the studios and to view actual recording sessions, such as the recording of SC State University’s brass quintet.

According to Reid, the SC State performance took place for one hour. The quintet, comprised of two trumpets (Desmond Kelly and Justin Watts), one French horn (Darius Davis), a trombone (Gerard Lancaster) and a tuba (Hussein Davies), performed music from various genres.

“We performed a wide variety of classical music from the Renaissance through the 20th century. We also included jazz music and excerpts from ‘Westside Story’. As a result, we gave them music arranged specifically for brass quintet,” says Reid.



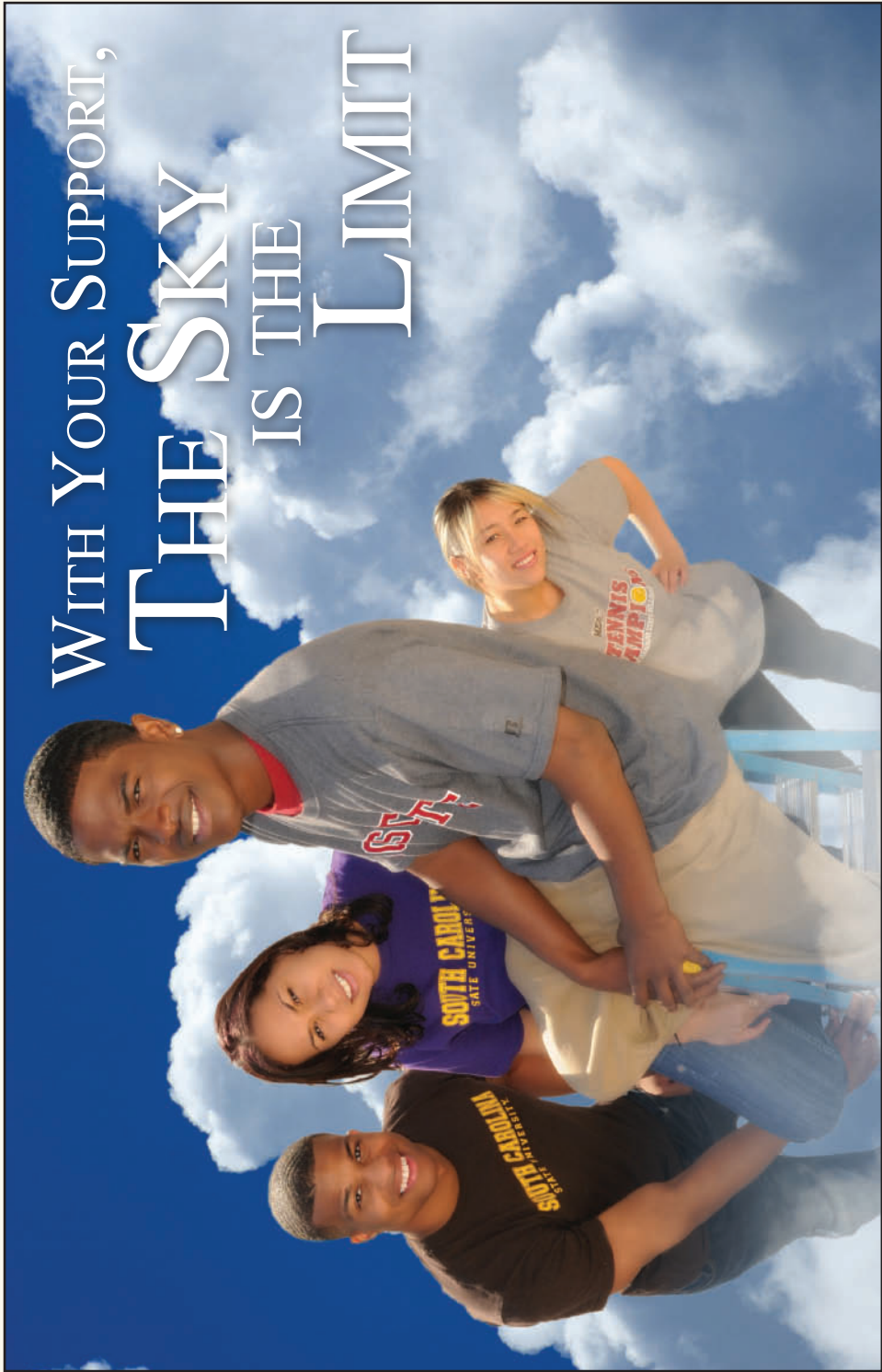
(l to r) Desmond Kelly, Darius Davis, Hussein Davies, Gerald Lancaster, Justin Watts, Dr. Steven J. Reid

Photo taken by SC State student Larry Frazier

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Focus on the future



Dr. George E. Cooper

President’s Message

2011 has been a challenging year-consistent cuts in the state budget, false allegations of misplaced funds and decreased enrollment. However, 2012 is almost upon us, and as the New Year expeditiously approaches, despite the hardships, SC State University has remained positive and focused. As the old saying goes, “what doesn’t kill us will make us stronger.”

Regardless of the obstacles, SC State University does remain strong and has made many lofty accomplishments this year. Additionally, the upcoming initiatives for 2012 will persist in branding SC State University as a leading institution. In 2011, this leadership was exemplified in our hailed Bachelor of Science program in nuclear engineering. We often boasted its uniqueness as the only accredited program of its kind within the state of South Carolina. This recognition has become even more credible this year with our recent separation from the University of Wisconsin, making this a stand-alone program with the viable credentials that will enable our students to be successful in an ever changing, competitive work force.

We are also exceedingly proud of our continued rankings in various publications, most notably, our status as fifth in the nation among public HBCUs by US News and World Report. These publications have also taken notice of an ROTC program that has garnered much success. In the 2011 College Rankings edition, Washington Monthly ranked SC State University in the top 10 category for enrolling the most cadets in its ROTC Program.

While these are just a few among many of the tremendous achievements by our University, we must also acknowledge that the appearance of our campus has altered. In 2011, the Leroy Davis Sr. Science and Research Complex was constructed, a state-of-the-art facility housing the Departments of Biology and Physical Science. The Bulldog Wall was also erected and placed in the Oliver C. Dawson Stadium. The Bulldog Wall, a brick wall with gold engraved plates, salutes SC State University alumni and supports SC State University athletics.

The campus face-lift will also continue with construction of the Emily E. Clyburn Archive Center, one aspect of the SC State University James E. Clyburn Transportation Center, beginning in the fall of 2012. We have also paved the way for completion of the new engineering and computer science complex, consisting of the Departments of Civil and Mechanical Engineering Technology, Mathematics and Computer Science and Industrial and Electrical Engineering Technology.

Academically, we have begun the SC State University Academic Success Academy. Unveiled on Dec. 1, 2011 and located on the first floor of the Marion Birnie Wilkinson “Y” Hut, the new academy is comprised of the General Education Curriculum (GEC) review, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) for faculty professional development and the Early College High School.

The Division of Student Affairs has also developed the Parents Advisory Committee (PAC). Entering its second year, the new venture will allow parents to become more involved in their children’s college activities and to address any concerns with the university, ultimately assisting with retention. Research indicates that the student who succeeds has a parent who is engaged in their college career.

Finally, with the Board of Trustees’ recent approval to launch the silent phase of a Capital Campaign, we will raise the funds to strengthen our endowment, provide additional student scholarships and increase planned giving.

I am especially proud of this edition of the FOCUS newsletter because it demonstrates our continued ability to thrive academically and financially. Our students continue to shine and our fundraising momentum increases with the implementation of new and creative initiatives. Credible companies and alumni are continuing to support SC State University.

This edition exemplifies that SC State University still stands strong, and in the midst of a declining economy, we will continue to utilize our resources-gifted students, talented faculty and staff, supportive alumni, strong academic programs, new initiatives and a caring community to continue our success in 2012.

SC State University Alumni Show Love for their Alma Mater through Generous Donation

by Tameka Kenan-Norman

Kendra Speed and Jameel Allen have known each other for years. Both graduated from SC State University in 2001. They both matriculated within SC State University’s School of Business and were actively involved in the Student Government Association.

Advance to 2011 and both SC State alumni serve on the Board of Visitors (BOV). Allen is the new chairman while Speed serves as the secretary. Most recently, the two proudly walked onto the SC State campus during Homecoming Weekend to give back to their Alma Mater, a generous, collective donation of \$20,000, each giving \$10,000 to be used within the School of Business or in the computer science sector.

According to Speed, director of Business Development at Data Systems and Technology, Inc. in Charlotte, N.C., giving seemed appropriate for Homecoming Weekend and during a celebratory class reunion. “I felt like it was really time to give back and to show the commitment that I have for the University,” says Speed. “It’s quite exciting because I think that any time you give, no matter how much it is, it’s going to take you outside of yourself, so it felt good doing something that wasn’t all about me but that would help students at the University.”

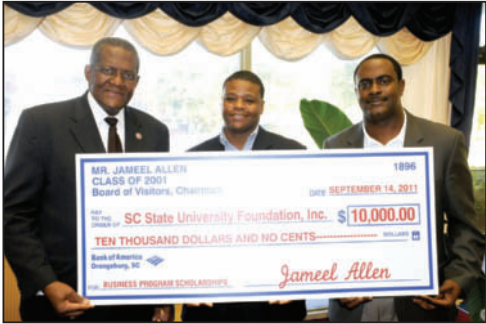
Allen, who recently supported business scholarships with a \$10,000 donation in Sept., once thought that calling himself a donor would be an over statement, especially considering the difficulties he encountered before entering the University. “Coming out of high school, my credentials weren’t as strong, but my heart was in the right place,” says Allen.

“So, it boiled down to choosing a University that would afford me an opportunity.”

SC State was only the beginning for the Sales & Marketing professional at Fluor Corporation, one of the world’s leading and largest engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance service companies. Now, Allen, an Atlanta, Ga. native, can support his employer while working with counterparts and business leaders across the globe in which he often gives credit back to SC State for his remarkable college experience. “I am proud to say that I graduated from SC State,” exclaims Allen. “I made a commitment to give back when the University afforded me an opportunity to pursue the required educational path in concert with my career aspirations.”

Allen and Speed, a Herndon, Va. native who succumbed to a University that had become a staple in her family, say that their commitment to SC State University will continue beyond this gift. “I enjoy giving back to the School of Business, recruiting students and sharing my experiences,” says Speed. “This is not a one-time gift but what I view as the first of many large gifts to the University.” Allen says, “Working with the BOV allows me the opportunity to take my corporate experience and apply it to an institution that serves our future leaders.”

The Class of 2001’s total contribution to SC State University was a gift of \$21,785. If you are interested in making a donation of unrestricted or restricted funds to SC State University, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (803) 536-8143. Speed says



(l-r) SC State President, Dr. George E. Cooper, Board of Visitors chairman, Jameel Allen and Board of Trustees chairman, Jonathan N. Pinson



(l-r) SC State President, Dr. George E. Cooper, Board of Visitors secretary, Kendra N. Speed and Board of Trustees chairman, Jonathan N. Pinson

that while your donation may not be large, all donations are significant. “There is a clear path and plan ahead for the University, and contributions to this path may begin with a small, simple gift of \$50 to \$100 or even \$10 a month. All of the gifts are helpful and will go toward the area which it is designated. It is very rewarding and it’s a small token considering what we have gained from the University.”

SC State Stand-Out, Robert Porcher, Hopes \$300,000 Donation will Plant Seed of Giving

by Tameka Kenan-Norman

At 6’3, Robert Porcher’s dominant stature and 13-year career in football has always commanded respect. However, the former defensive leader and first-round draft choice for the Detroit Lions believes that SC State allowed him to create a foundation to be one of the most feared defensive ends in NFL history. Porcher often alludes to enrolling at SC State as his “turning point” in life.

“It was a good foundation. It was just the whole atmosphere of being on campus. I got the feeling that everyone, the professors and coaches, even the cafeteria staff genuinely cared about you,” says the Wando, S.C. native and transfer from Tennessee State University.

However, more so than being remembered for his illustrious career, Porcher would rather leave a lasting legacy with SC State students that giving to his Alma Mater is a top priority.

“The University needs help and the students need our assistance,” says Porcher. “I want to plant a seed in their heads to show them what I’m trying to do, and my hope is that they will take it to another level.”

A highly recognized albeit humble and generous man, Porcher’s recent gift to the University did take things to another level, as he presented a gift of \$300,000 to SC State President George E. Cooper during Homecoming weekend, \$30,000 of which will be earmarked for the Criminal Justice Depart-

ment. Porcher has also begun the Robert Porcher Endowment Fund with the goal of raising \$500,000 to assist football student athletes majoring in either criminal justice or business offset their room and board, book and tuition expenses. With the assistance of businesses and former teammates, Porcher hopes to establish this feat within the next year and a half.

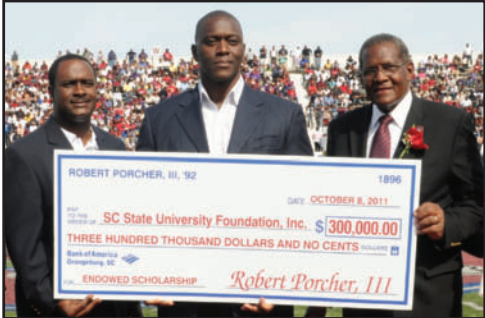
“I just think it’s important that you give,” emphasizes Porcher, whose first gift to the SC State Athletics Department after he was drafted was a set of new warm ups for the football team. “I hated the warm ups that we wore when I was a senior, so I bought the team some new ones.”

Porcher’s sentiments on giving is derived from his many experiences at the University, including a visit from former SC State alumnus and New York Giants stand-out, Harry Carson.

“My senior year in college, Harry Carson, the highest NFL draft pick that we had at the time, came and spoke to the team,” says Porcher. “He talked about the importance of and what it meant to be a Bulldog and how we should conduct ourselves in terms of responsibilities to yourself, your family, your community and to SC State, and for him to fly in from New York and give the insight that he gave, it changed my perspective and my outlook about what I would do if I had a chance to play in the NFL.”

Porcher continues to cultivate the Robert Porcher Endowment Fund and hopes to instill his giving spirit in other students and alumni.

“I want our students and football players to know that I took the same route they did,” says Porcher. “I hope to ignite a thought process in someone else who might say, ‘I could start my own endowment fund.’ That’s all we need, to have someone with a vision who says, ‘I’m going to do this.’”



(l-r) SC State board chairman, Jonathan Pinson, Robert Porcher III, ’92 and SC State President, Dr. George E. Cooper

Savannah River Remediation Donates \$10,000 to S.C. State’s Nuclear Engineering Program for Scholarships

provided by SRR



(l-r) SRR president and project manager, Dave Olson; SC State president, Dr. George E. Cooper and SC State board chairman, Jonathan N. Pinson

Savannah River Remediation LLC (SRR) has donated \$10,000 to South Carolina State University. The university will use the donation to fund scholarships in its Nuclear Engineering Program. SC State’s Nuclear Engineering Program is the only accredited program of its kind in South Carolina.

Dave Olson, SRR president and project manager, said SRR is pleased to be able to support SC State through the Nuclear Engineering Program.

“South Carolina State University provides a pipeline of trained workers who understand our nuclear Liquid Waste mission,” Olson said. “Savannah River Remediation will need employees who can help us achieve our goal of closing old-style waste tanks, and we will continue to look to institutions, such as South Carolina State University, to provide our future talent.”

SRR is the Savannah River Site’s (SRS) Liquid Waste contractor. SRS is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. SRR is composed of personnel from a team of companies led by URS with partners Bechtel National, CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Safety Management Solutions.

“A Light at the End of the Tunnel”

SC State University Steadily Gains Fundraising Momentum

by Tameka Kenan-Norman



Anthony L. Holloman

Within the past few years, the economic perils of our nation have also created a daunting outlook for many colleges and universities. Unfortunately, SC State University is one such institution that has felt the wrath of limited resources resulting from a continuous decline in state appropriations. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Slowly, the only public, historically black college and university within the state of South Carolina is recovering. With a system

in place that is garnering the support of alumni, new stakeholders and individuals from corporate America, one can only be optimistic about its future.

“I think that we have put the infrastructure in place to allow us to generate the kinds of resources that it takes to sustain a public University,” says Anthony Holloman, vice president for the Division of Institutional Advancement. According to Holloman, the sustenance essential in maintaining a University that is home to nearly 5,000 students is increasing private giving, integrating key departments, placing an emphasis on annual giving and implementing creative initiatives.

Holloman, at the helm of Institutional Advancement for almost two years, has substantially increased private giving by over \$1 million. “When I came here, the University was raising less than \$2 million in private giving, and last year, June 30, 2011, we finished the year with over \$3.6 million in private giving,” says Holloman. “We expect to continue to see significant growth in our fundraising.”

Exceeding his \$3 million goal set in 2010, Holloman wants to surpass that in 2012, hoping to raise \$4 million in private gifts. “In addition, we hope to increase the percentage of alumni giving to at least 18 percent,” says Holloman. “That’s important, because partners from corporations and foundations are interested in seeing those numbers and statistics to see how many of our own alumni are supporting the mission and vision of our University.”

Indicative of the beginnings of this growth was Homecoming Weekend 2011 when SC State University received three large gifts from SC State alumni. Robert Porcher contributed \$300,000 towards an endowment to support athletics, and young alumni, Jameel Allen and Kendra Speed, each donated \$10,000.

“That’s significant in the sense that those individuals have been out of school for years and they made a significant, personal commitment to support SC State,” notes Holloman. “That’s what we’re trying to do, develop relationships with our graduates and allow them to support their Alma Mater, and I think we’re doing that.”

Relationship building is a key component for Holloman’s latest venture at the University, transferring Career Planning and Placement from Student Affairs to Institutional Advancement. Holloman says that this latest undertaking will create additional opportunities and dollars to support the academic mission of the University. It will also create a partnership that is ultimately an investment.

“The Career Center is an integral part of what the University does,” says Holloman. “Our job at the University is to bring young people to the campus, to provide them with the necessary resources and tools to leave the University and to go and be productive citizens, and we think that with Career

Planning and Placement under Institutional Advancement, it allows us to put our strengths together with our partners, a partnership that will allow us to have more scholarship dollars for our students.” Holloman hopes that partnerships with major companies like BMW and SCANA will flourish, thus providing an avenue not only for scholarships but also for programmatic support of academic offerings.

Although the Career Center may be pivotal in accumulating more funding for SC State University, Holloman has also set a stark contrast between the division from the time prior his appointment to now because of his emphasis on the Annual Fund Appeal. The basis of all money generated in a fundraising operation, Holloman says that the University did not have an Annual Fund Office until 2010.

“We really didn’t have a process in place to which we solicited our alumni and friends on an annual basis for private dollars,” explains Holloman. “These are dollars that allow the University to offset the day to day expenses to provide scholarships and programmatic support.”

Reunions manager, Iva Gardner, is managing the Annual Fund Appeal process, of which the biggest growth in fundraising has been indicated. Holloman notes that three times as many individuals gave in 2010 to 2011 as opposed to 2009 to 2010.

Piggybacking on the appeal, the office organized their first phone-a-thon in years under Holloman’s leadership. “We used a private company to facilitate those phone calls. That impacted the bottom line in a positive manner,” says Holloman. This year’s phone-a-thon is expected to further catapult the University’s positive fundraising future. “Last year, we generated about \$400,000 for the phone-a-thon, so we hope to increase that number this year,” says an enthusiastic Holloman.

Beyond the phone-a-thon and Annual Fund Appeal, Holloman has begun the planning stages of a widely publicized Capital Campaign. The first in the University’s history, the Capital Campaign, currently in the planning stages, is vastly important and will be designed to solicit immensely large gifts for SC State.

“The Board has approved for us to move forward, so we are working to identify volunteer leadership and to work on timelines, and we feel very confident that we’re going to be able to secure some major support for the campaign in the coming months,” says Holloman.

A huge execution, the Capital Campaign may last anywhere from five to seven years, and the initial project in which funds will go towards the campaign, is the Legacy Society, a recognition society for any individual who has left the University in their will or estate plan.

“We are going to focus more on planned gifts,” says Holloman. “We believe that’s the way we allow individuals to make larger gifts, by utilizing the assets they have available to them.” Holloman states that these planned gifts should make up 25 percent of the money raised in the Capital Campaign.

All in all, Holloman is lending his 10 plus years in fundraising experience to SC State University. With these initiatives in place, Holloman has set the foundation needed to provide scholarships for students, to gain additional alumni assistance and lasting support from partners of major companies. The differentiation between the division in prior years to now is significant and creates a brighter financial picture for SC State University, so bright that alumni like Porcher are encouraged to entrust their Alma Mater and lend to its efforts.

“I love Mr. Holloman’s enthusiasm and his professionalism for SC State University,” says Porcher. “This man is passionate about what he’s doing and I really like the fact that he’s there and that he’s in the position he’s in.”

To speak with Anthony Holloman or to make a donation in support of SC State University, call (803) 516-4871.

SC State University’s Latest Centerpiece is Unveiled

by Tameka Kenan-Norman



After the traditional pomp and circumstance associated with every SC State University Homecoming, alumni and supporters gathered near the entrance of Oliver C. Dawson Stadium to view the University’s latest showpiece—the Bulldog Wall.

Anthony Holloman, vice president for Institutional Advancement, was happy to unveil the Bulldog Wall, a compilation of bricks reaching almost six feet high with names of SC State alumni and patrons etched in gold. An initiative designed to support the athletics facilities, Holloman says that the first phase of the Bulldog Wall campaign has raised over \$100,000.

“We have sold over 200 bricks,” says Holloman. “Our goal is to sell 500 bricks, and thus far people have been enthused. We are especially excited about how the Bulldog Wall looks.”

The first phase of the Bulldog Wall will reach completion once all 500 bricks are sold. Each brick is \$500, and with the purchase of 500 total bricks, the University hopes to raise \$250,000 which will go towards a program that has reached milestones throughout the years.

Dignitaries in the Orangeburg community and the state of South Carolina have understood the power of this investment. Leaders like former coach Willie Jeffries, current SC State head football coach, Buddy Pough, football legend Benny Cunningham, SC State President, Dr. George E. Cooper, mayor Paul Miller and many other names can now be found on the Bulldog Wall, exemplifying the cross section of individuals who are supporting the University’s latest initiative.

Jeffries, also chairperson for the Bulldog Wall Campaign, encourages everyone to have their name placed on the centerpiece.

“It’s an excellent chance for your children and grandchildren who will be able to see your name on this wall,” says Jeffries. “It’s a golden opportunity and it’s almost in perpetuity. I use that word loosely, but I’m hoping this wall will be there for a long time.”

If you would like to make an investment in the future of SC State athletics, complete the Bulldog Wall Fund form located at www.scsu.edu. For more information, call (803) 536-8143.

SC State University’s Mobile Giving Campaign Deemed a Success

by Tameka Kenan-Norman

SC State University’s Division of Institutional Advancement has successfully merged the latest technological advancements with alumni giving. In Sept. 2010, SC State University officially launched their partnership with Connect2Give, Inc., an authorized application service provider through the Mobile Giving Foundation, providing an opportunity for parents, students, alumni and patrons of SC State to donate to the institution utilizing a mobile phone and text messaging.

When Anthony Holloman, vice president for the Division of Institutional Advancement, announced the first phase of the campaign during a home football game, visitors simultaneously pulled out their cell phones and began texting BULLDOG to 52000. This was the initial step in generating over \$10,000 for the first-time initiative. However, according to Holloman, focus on the project was primarily during the football season, stunting the program’s true capabilities.

“This year, we want to focus on the campaign year round,” says Holloman. “We’re finding more ways to get the information out and to encourage individuals to give.”

Your text, which will donate \$10 to the University, is a small amount of money, but it’s significant for young alumni or other supporters who wish to assist the University, even in a weak economy. This small donation can also result in a tremendous gift for an SC State student.

“Just that \$10 contribution can have a huge impact because we can generate larger numbers,” says Holloman. He hopes that this year’s mobile giving campaign will double last year’s amount, with the University raising \$20,000.

Funds from the Mobile Giving Campaign will go directly to the South Carolina State University Foundation, and with Connect2 Give, Inc., organizations retain up to 90 percent of all donations. To participate in SC State’s Mobile Giving Campaign, text BULLDOG to 52000 to donate \$10. You may also donate via the University web by logging on to <http://www.scsu.edu/givetoscstate.aspx>. For additional information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at (803) 516-4616.

Get Yours Today

Inlet Bounty, limited edition posters created and signed by Jonathan Green, are available for purchase for \$100 each from the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium.



SC State’s Marching “101” Band Chosen for 10th Annual Honda Battle of the Bands

by Antia Dawkins



Mr. Eddie Ellis (*left*) receives recognition for SC State University’s participation in the Honda Battle of the Bands.

The nation’s marching band fans have spoken and have chosen SC State’s Marching “101” Band as one of the top eight marching bands at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) for the 2012 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase. Now marking 10 years of celebrating the heritage, showmanship and scholarship of HBCU bands, the Honda Battle of the Bands will bring “The Homecoming” to the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga. for the Invitational Showcase that will take place on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012 at 3 p.m.

SC State’s Marching “101” Band is known from coast to coast as the “baddest band in the land.” The members have entertained tens of thousands of spectators at football games throughout the south-

east and millions by way of nationally televised professional football games. Mr. Eddie Ellis, director of bands, is extremely excited about this endeavor. “I am really excited to go back and the students are too. To be asked a second time to participate in the Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase is an honor. Attending the Honda Battle of the Bands does many things for the University. It makes alumni and friends happy and it widens the base for recruiting students. Most of all, it recognizes the dedication of our talented students.”

The selected HBCU marching bands will earn a \$20,000 grant for their music education programs and an all-expense-paid trip to the 2012 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase. The other HBCUs chosen to attend are: Albany State University’s “Marching Rams Show Band” (Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference); Bethune-Cookman University’s “Marching Wildcats” (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference); Jackson State University’s “Sonic Boom of the South” (Southwestern Athletic Conference); Prairie View A&M University’s “Marching Storm” (Southwestern Athletic Conference); Tennessee State University’s “Aristocrat of Bands” (Independent); Virginia State University’s “Marching Trojan Explosion” (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) and Winston-Salem State University’s “Red Sea of Sound” (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association).

For the eight winning bands, the journey to the invitational showcase will involve months of practice and training, all in preparation for their Georgia Dome performances where each band will have 12 dazzling minutes to showcase their musical excellence, distinctive style and superior showmanship that earned them a place in the 2012 Invitational Showcase. The showcase bands were chosen via online voting, with votes by fans, students and alumni accounting for one-third of the selection criteria, and band directors and school presidents accounting for the balance of the selection process.

For additional information about SC State’s Marching “101” Band participating in the Honda Battle of the Bands, contact Eddie Ellis at (803)536-8570.

Retirees Reconnect during SC State University’s Inaugural Breakfast

by Ashley Elliott



Faithful members of SC State University’s family congregated on campus during the inaugural retirees’ breakfast, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011. Loyal retirees who devoted more than 30 years of service to SC State University or to the state of South Carolina collectively, were all smiles upon entering the K.W. Green Student Center. They showed their enthusiasm and excitement when reuniting with former colleagues and friends such as committee co-chairs, Dr. Leola Adams, ‘69 and Ms. Mary L. Smalls, ‘74.

Adams, who retired from the University in 2008 after serving more than 35 years in various capacities, to include dean for the School of Applied Professional Sciences and interim vice president for Research and Economic Development, told the distinguished group that she wants “this inaugural breakfast to serve as the beginning of a reconnection between SC State retirees and the University. “I would like for us to reconnect with each other, whether that is through regular meetings, establishing a book club, travel club or investment and photography groups,” stated Adams. “We all have these interests and this will be a way in which we can connect with each other.”

Smalls, who also devoted more than 30 years of service to the University after retiring as dean of the Miller F. Whittaker Library in 2008, shared the dynamic notion of reconnecting and the importance of maintaining a family structure. “The University has been our foundation either through getting our education or employment. It has touched our lives in so many ways,” shared Smalls. “The day you enrolled, graduated, returned to employment, retired, or was employed and retired, you became a member of the SC State University family, and you will always be a member.”

In addition to announcing the launch of the South Carolina State University Retirees Society, the pair emphasized the significance of giving back to the University that has given much to them,

whether that be through scholarships, annual or planned giving. “Think about where you would be today without the opportunity the University gave you when you needed an education or a job,” stressed Smalls. “The University in essence is our home, so as a family, we should be taking care of our home because it is in need.” Adams concurred stating, “If we think back to when we were students, I am certain there were times when some of you didn’t know how you were going to make it. Someone reached out to you. The University has students with real needs and that is why it’s important to support the University in educating our students,” noted Adams.

Vice president for the Division of Institutional Advancement, Anthony Holloman, says he is grateful for the commitment of Adams and Smalls to assist the University in re-engaging a dedicated group that’s so important to the University.

“I’m very excited to work with Dr. Leola Adams and Ms. Mary L. Smalls to launch the South Carolina State University’s Retiree’s Society. This initiative, along with the establishment of the Legacy Society, will allow the University to reconnect and recognize those individuals that have included the University in their wills and estate plans. These gifts help the University to grow its endowment and develop resources that lead to long-term stability and growth,” stated Holloman.

Reflecting back on the overall experience, Adams said, “The breakfast turned out beautifully. It achieved the purpose of the University’s reconnection with retired faculty, staff and administrators. It really put the ownership of all of this on the University to reach out to individuals. They need to know that there is still a place for them, that their presence at activities is wanted and appreciated and just by having them for breakfast is a great first step.”

Community Tribute Luncheon Honors Stellar SC State Alumni

by Tameka Kenan-Norman

From music performance to education, government and religion, SC State University alumni from various disciplines were honored during the recent MOJA Arts Festival Community Tribute Luncheon held at the Magnolia Plantation. According to Elease Amos-Goodwin, MOJA Arts Festival liaison to the Office of Cultural Affairs, the annual tribute luncheon has become a fixture in the state and honors individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty.

“The purpose of the luncheon is to pay tribute to those who give of their time and energy to the community in a volunteer fashion,” says Amos-Goodwin. “You may be a doctor, but if you are a doctor who will take care of children who don’t have insurance, then you go above and beyond.”

This year’s honorees included the following SC State alumni: Erica Prioleau-Taylor, ’00, honored as a rising star; Charlton Singleton, ’94, recognized as an artist; Michael A. Allen, ’82, known for his commitment in government; and Rev. Dr. William Swinton Jr., ’79, praised for his work in religion.

Amos-Goodwin created the luncheon in 1992 and consistently receives submissions from individuals throughout the state. A committee then chooses honorees from those nominations who meet the criteria of giving back to their community. “Our honorees contribute to all kinds of causes and to non-profits,” says Amos-Goodwin. “We are always very pleased with the honorees that we have chosen. I’ve never had a year that I wasn’t pleased because we are very careful in whom we choose and why, and to them it’s very special.”

For additional information on the MOJA Arts Festival Community Tribute Luncheon and the recent honorees, visit www.mojafestival.com.

“Nationwide is on Our Side” Nationwide Insurance Donates \$15,000 for SC State Student Scholarships

by Tameka Kenan-Norman



Nationwide®
On Your Side™

Nationwide Insurance was recognized recently for their continued partnership with SC State University. Ruben A. Minor, the company’s relationship manager, visited the campus recently to discuss the overall marketing effort with SC State alumni and to deliver Nationwide’s latest donation of \$15,000. Minor says that he was delighted to continue to give to an institution that has fostered a relationship with him and Nationwide over the years.

“The University is a great partner of ours and the relationship has been in place for a few years. It’s one of the better performing ones as well,” says Minor. “In an effort to show additional support to the University, it takes finances, and having a relationship made this an easy sell.”

Minor notes that this important contribution from Nationwide Insurance is not the first time that Nationwide has given to support SC State students. However, this donation from Nationwide Insurance comes at a prime time, when assistance is critical for a state institution that has suffered a loss of millions in state support. This funding will support SC State University’s mission, which includes providing meaningful educational experiences for students and preparing them to excel in a global society.

Realizing the challenges, Minor, based in Columbus, Ohio, says that giving to any institution, particularly an HBCU (Historically Black College or University), is significant. “Young black Americans are our future for tomorrow,” says Minor. “The only way they can be set up for success is if they have the tools and the resources to make them successful, and the only way they get the tools and the resources is for large organizations, as well as other philanthropists, to give their time, talent and their treasure to what matters most, and that is continuing the legacy of our diverse individuals being educated to change the world.”

